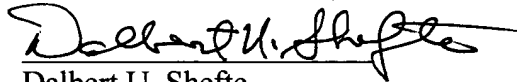


In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that the present claims be allowed. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dalbert U. Shefte".

Dalbert U. Shefte  
Kennedy, Covington, Lobdell & Hickman, L.L.P.  
4200 Bank of America Corporate Center  
100 North Tryon Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202-4006  
(704) 331-7400  
-- Attorney for Applicant